

IF we have made arrangements to have our City Subscribers to the WEEKLY TRIBUNE regularly sent at their residences, by leaving notice at office, 160 Nassau-st.

IF we are indebted to Hon. Messrs. AYCOCK and VAN RENSSELAER for valuable Public Documents.

IF for a careful abstract of Berrien's Report and Bill, proposing to modify and not repeal the Bankrupt Law; Legislative Proceedings of Monday; Gold in Alabama; Exploring Expedition, &c. &c. see First Page.

IF for a new Poem by BRYANT and a Tale of Motiny by HAWES MORTINGALE, see Last Page.

FROM EUROPE.—The packet North America, Capt. Lowber, was reported below yesterday evening, having left Liverpool on 7th January. She brings news therefore three days later. As she did not come up last night, we have as yet received no papers by her.

Reduce the Postage.

Friends in Congress! the whole Country earnestly desires and expects of you a REDUCTION OF THE RATES OF POSTAGE before you adjourn. It will be a sad mistake every way to neglect this. Do not fear to act decisively and cut deep. Our conviction is strong that a reduction to one-third of the present rates, carefully adjusted, would increase the Revenue within three years. Can you doubt it? Consider the general education and diffusion of our people—their communicativeness, their business habits and love of relatives; then consider Great Britain, with her ignorant and famished working classes, yet exacting only one penny postage for distances which we charge a quarter for! Remember that the reduction there was stoutly resisted as ruinous; yet who opposes it now? If Congress had only the forecast and nerve to reduce all letter-postage to two cents for ten miles and under, three cents from 10 to 50 miles, five cents from 50 to 500, and ten cents over 500, and then reduce the postage on Newspapers carried less than 30 miles to one-fourth, and less than 100 to one-half what they now are, the recollection of this benign act would efface that of many shortcomings and follies. With a rigid suppression of the Franking Privilege, these rates would answer. How can Congress overlook this subject?

A friend who lately traveled through Illinois informs us that he there called on many friends who had not heard from their relatives at the East for years. In reply to his expressions of astonishment, they informed him that the postage of a letter was equal to the value of a bushel of wheat, and no cash to be had for wheat at that price; so they could not afford to write or receive letters. Need we point the moral of such facts?

The Report of the Judiciary Committee—New-York vs. Virginia.

If there be any among our readers who have been led to fear that the fountains of Juridical sapience are becoming exhausted or shallow—that Coke and Mansfield are not adequately represented by their living successors—that Taney scantly fills the seat of Marshall, and our Supreme Bench presents no improvement on the days of Livingston, Kent, and Ambrose Spencer—that there is danger in such hands of a recession from the living spirit of Law in a too narrow pursuit of its dry letter—we beg them to procure the Report of our Assembly's Judiciary Committee on the question at issue between New-York and Virginia, and refresh their drooping spirits with water from the wells of consolation there afforded. That Report is originally the work of the Honorable David R. Floyd Jones, a Member of Assembly from this City, whose achievements in Jurisprudence are not to be measured by the slow-dropping suads of Time. As a specimen of Legislative dignity and elevated Statesmanship it is perhaps equally deserving of admiration; but it is in the character of a Jurist that its author's fame culminates most rapidly toward the zenith; and it is therefore as a Judicial document that we shall mainly regard his Report, as little dazzled as may be by the effulgence of its glory.

But we must first give a hasty statement of the facts in the case, in regard to which the Report is less perspicuous than is desirable. If some of the brilliancy of its logic had been sacrificed to a greater perspicuity of statement, the author would probably have lost something of glory and admiration, but the common-sense reader would have gained much in a knowledge of what all this potter is about. The facts are these:

1. A slave escaped from Virginia by concealing himself on board a small coasting vessel, which sailed from Norfolk for this port. His master sent on by land to this city to apprehend him; the agent arrived here first, quietly awaited the appearance of the vessel, took the slave directly from her, and carried him back to Virginia, without hindrance or molestation of any kind. But three colored men, who were of the crew of the vessel, were somehow accused of aiding or encouraging the escape of this slave to Freedom. They were apprehended, but discharged by Robert H. Morris, then Recorder, now Mayor, of this city, on the ground that there was nothing in the papers sent on from Virginia which sufficiently implicated them in any crime even to warrant their detention to await the action of the Governor. About the same time a requisition from Virginia for their surrender reached Gov. Seward, which, upon examination, he decided to be every way insufficient to criminate these men or warrant him in surrendering them; and, to prevent misapprehension, Gov. S. added that, if the papers had been sufficient, he could not deem the offence charged upon these men (aiding one of their own color to escape from bondage) a 'treason, felony, or other crime' within the meaning of the Constitution, and therefore could not feel justified in surrendering them. A protracted and spicy controversy between the Executives of New-York and Virginia ensued, but ended as it began.

2. The Legislature of this State passed a law granting to persons claimed within this State as 'fugitives from labor or service' in some other State—they resisting and denying the validity of such claim—the Right of Trial by Jury to determine whether they in truth are or are not fugitives as claimed. The act forbids the carrying of an alleged slave out of the State without allowing him such Trial by Jury.

3. Virginia, alleging that both the refusal of the Governor and the Jury Act of our Legislature are violations of the Constitution and infractions of her rights, has passed a retaliatory Inspection law, requiring that each New-York vessel found in her waters shall be inspected before leaving, to see that she does not carry off fugitive slaves—shall give bonds in a heavy sum that she will not so carry off slaves—and shall pay ten dollars for the Inspection, &c. &c. This act is every oppressive to our small coasters, which visit Virginia for cargoes of corn, wheat, flour, tobacco and timber, and which

are subjected to great vexation and delay, in addition to the expense, by virtue of its provisions. The ultimate effect of this law is of course to give great advantage over New-York to other States and cities in prosecuting a trade with Virginia.

Such are the essential facts submitted to Mr. Jones and his Committee. Now let these points be considered:

1st. Virginia has sustained no injury whatever from New-York. Her slave was sent back the moment he touched our soil; and as to our own three citizens, who were claimed by her as fugitives from justice, she has made out no case against them, even under her own view of the 'crime' of aiding a slave to conceal himself on board a vessel and so escape from bondage. She has given no proof that these men committed that 'crime,' and so our Governor has had no chance to surrender them, if disposed. Recorder Morris decided promptly that the Virginia demanders had made out no case which entitled them to go up to the Governor at all. And as to the Jury Law, there is no complaint that any Virginian has been prevented by it from reclaiming his fugitive slave. Now we presume it does not require half the Judicial acumen and attainment of a Jones to determine that Virginia has no business with the laws and Executive proceedings of New-York until they shall have wrought some injustice to her or her citizens.

2d. New-York has sustained and is sustaining gross detriment and mischief from the operation of the Virginia Inspection Law, and of that damage her aggrieved citizens have complained to their Government, asking for relief and redress. Our Commerce is daily suffering from it.

Such is the state of facts presented. Now let us see how our Pewter Mug Solon elucidates the matter.

Of the twenty-four pages to which his Report is diluted, eighteen are taken up with a review of the conduct of Gov. Seward in the premises, four of them being made up of extracts from a Speech on the subject, with which he enlightened the minds of the last Legislature, its drift being to show that a slave may be stolen—a point which is made out to the entire satisfaction of the Jurist. Now we should suppose that a man of common sense could have settled this point with half the pains here devoted to it, by stating the plain proposition that any thing which has value may be stolen, and that any man who takes without leave the property of another, intending to appropriate it to his own use, is of course a thief. The essence of theft is a felonious intent to obtain and enjoy what belongs of right to another. Suppose A. B. finds a snare set by C. D. in which a rare bird has been caught, and he stealthily takes out the bird and he cooked for his dinner. This is the act of a thief—it is theft—there can be no doubt of it. But suppose, moved to compassion by the beauty and undeserved sufferings of the bird, he open the trap and lets it go free. Now who does not see and feel that this act is not theft? It is a trespass—a violation of the rights of C. D. for which he is clearly entitled to damages—but it is not a felony. The evil intent is wanting. Just so in the case of a slave. If the three New-Yorkers had conspired to lure or carry off a slave from Virginia, with intent to sell or otherwise appropriate him to their own use or profit, they would have been guilty of felony, and the right to demand them apparent. But, having been guilty of nothing more than conversing with a brother of the servile race, in reference to the comparative advantages of Slavery and Freedom, and affording him a shelter when he fled on board their vessel, they had not offended against the great principles of universal morality, and so subjected themselves to pursuit and reclamation any where, but only against the *lex loci*, the 'peculiar institutions' of the South, and so were no more liable to reclamation than if their offence had been disturbing a church or selling lottery tickets.—This broad distinction, however, is too palpable for so subtle a logician, so profound a Jurist as the Honorable David R. Floyd Jones, who can see no distinction between kidnapping a slave and aiding his escape to Freedom, and argues the question accordingly!

So much for the staple of his argument to prove Virginia all right and New-York all wrong in the controversy. Now let us look at some of the minor beauties of style and argument. In reference to Gov. Seward's refusal he says:

"The Committee are perfectly willing to accord to his Excellency strict liability of action, if NOT honesty of intention, in refusing to surrender up the three alleged fugitives on proof so insufficient."

Is not this unusually rich? The Committee are certain Gov. Seward acted just right—that he could not have acted otherwise in the premises—but as to his 'honesty of intention' they are in a profound fog, from which all the legal lore and astuteness of their chairman is insufficient to deliver them!

Let us copy one more paragraph, almost at random, from this effulgent State paper, being a specimen of the intensely sarcastic skillfully blended with the dignity of Legislative deliberation. The Report sums up its censures on Gov. Seward by masterfully pronouncing that

"Dangerous, delusive, radical, ruinous error, has characterized from the commencement to the end of this controversy, the course and positions of our late Executive. His consideration in lawfully bringing into play the rights of our southern brethren, and forced the pillars of this strong conviction to totter on their base, must be found alone, where we hope he may be able to find them, in the pleasing conviction of having discharged the high duty devolved upon him, unimpaired except by the white perils of ambition, or the low and selfish suggestions of party."

Are not such gems of rare brilliancy? Remember that this is the amended Report, having been pruned by its godfathers of its exuberant coruscations of wit and genius in relation to "coonskins," "hard cider revelries," &c. &c. since it was submitted to the Legislature by the erudite Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. How delicious the original must have been, when the emasculated version is so fragrant, the reader will faintly imagine.

We have only room to speak of the conclusions of this dignified Report. The Whig proposition, as set forth by Mr. Hall, is simply that an action be brought in the U. S. Supreme Court by our Attorney General, to test the Constitutionality of the Virginia Inspection Law, and see whether our shipping is rightfully subjected to its exactions.—Virginia may at the same time make up an issue under our Jury Law, and settle the Constitutionality of that. Then the whole matter will be set at rest by the decision of the common arbiter provided by the Constitution, without a truckling sacrifice of dignity or consistency on either side. But the majority of the Judiciary, by their mouth-piece, Mr. Jones, propose to surrender the whole ground at discretion—to repeal the Jury Law, disclaim the grounds taken by Gov. Seward, and allow Virginia's penalties inflicted for the crime of being New-Yorkers to stand uncomplained of till she chooses, by an exercise of clemency and favor, to remove them! Into such hands has New-York committed the guardianship of her principles, her rights, and her honor!

IF we would call the attention of families and all in want of good Lamp Oil to the advertisement of J. N. LUCKY, 76 Front-st. to be found in another column.

Letter from Rio Grande.

By the late Black Hawk, Capt. Robinson, which arrived last evening from Rio Grande, after a passage of 60 days, we have considerably later and important intelligence. We are indebted to Mr. H. Pease, the 1st officer of the Black Hawk, for the following: Mr. P. states that a new President had arrived from Rio Janeiro for the purpose of quelling the rebellion in the Province of Rio Grande. He is a man experienced in such matters and has acted with great success upon former similar occasions. Great confidence is placed in him by the citizens of Rio Grande, and he says himself that he will either quell the rebellion or die with sword in hand. Mr. P. did not recollect his name. Preparations are being made for immediate battle, and small bands of men are arriving in the city every day from the northern Provinces. There is already a sufficient force collected to quell any rebellion that may occur in all Brazil. It was astonishing to see with what impunity the Rebels would (before the President arrived) ride through the city. Men known to belong to the insurgent party have been seen passing through the streets and none dared to touch them; the citizens would shrug their shoulders and let them pass. There is every probability now that peace will soon be restored. All the Northern Provinces are perfectly quiet. Business at Rio Grande is not very brisk. There are no American vessels in the port.

INDIANA.—This State has been divided by its Legislature into ten Congressional Districts; the Locos taking the lead and having the advantage in their arrangement. They are composed as follows:

1st District. Rash, Sullivan, Laporte, Marshall, Crawford, Switzerland, Secant, Marion, Dubois, Hancock, Ellettsburg, Adams, Blackford, Johnson, Madison, Montgomery, De Kalb, Floyd, Marion, Tippecanoe, Delaware, Jackson, Shelby, Warren, Hamilton, Jennings, Davis, Benton, Cass, Green, Gretna, Elkhart, Noble, Washington, Knox, Lawrence, Fulton, Randolph, Dearborn, Martin, Jasper, Stephens, Decatur, Monroe, Kosciusko, Franklin, Morgan, Lake, Ripley, Owen, Wiley.

These Districts voted for President in 1840 respectively as follows:

Dist. Harrison, V. Buren, Dist. Harrison, V. Bu. I. 6,792 5,714 VI. 6,327 6,058 II. 6,800 6,082 VII. 6,877 4,382 III. 7,806 5,935 VIII. 6,577 6,084 IV. 6,371 3,439 IX. 5,358 3,785 V. 6,919 6,120 X. 4,733 3,403

Total—Harrison 63,302; Van Buren 51,604

Allowing the vote of the two parties to be nearly balanced in the Congressional Election, by an even increase of Loco-Foco or diminution of Whig votes since 1840, the Whigs will carry the IIIrd, IVth, Vth, IXth and Xth Districts, and the Locos the other five. This would seem, therefore, to be a pretty fair division.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The Special Elections for Members of Congress in Massachusetts have resulted less unfavorably than we expected. Wm. Parmenter (Loco) is re-elected from the Middlesex District, as was anticipated; but we cannot hear that any other District has made a choice. In the Lowell District, there is a comparative Whig gain. The vote is very light.

ALLEN A. HALL, formerly Editor of the 'Republican Banner,' Nashville, Tenn. is soon, it is understood, to be recalled from the post of Charge d'Affaires to Venezuela, and Hon. H. M. WATTERSON, a very bitter and abusive Loco-Foco Member of Congress from Tennessee, takes his place—his constituents having no further use for him. Mr. Hall cannot of course have given any possible office to John Tyler; but he belongs to the party which elevated that same John Tyler within reach of his present Accidental position; Mr. H. was himself a most efficient laborer in the work; and there is therefore every reason to presume that he at heart regards Mr. Tyler's official course and present attitude with utter disgust and abhorrence.—So off with his head! and give his place to the man who made one of the most scurrilous Speeches of 1840 against Mr. Tyler and the principles on which he was supported, and who has since stigmatized the triumph which elevated Mr. T. as the result of bribery and fraud!

THE WHIGS OF THE EIGHTH WARD give their second Annual Ball, in honor of the Ratification by our Government of the Treaty of Ghent, at the Tivoli Saloon on Friday evening. This festival in honor of our Country's honorable close of an arduous and glorious struggle for the maintenance of the Freedom of the Seas and for the essential Rights of her Soas, will not be enjoyed by the Whigs of the Eighth Ward alone, numerous and spirited as they are; but the importance of the event commemorated, the inspiring thoughts of future as well as past National glories connected with it—the proud affection with which the master-spirit of that War and the foremost negotiator of that Peace is here as every where regarded—will combine to draw together a large assemblage of the gallantry and beauty of our City. The friends of HENRY CLAY are a mighty host at all times; they will muster stronger and stronger at each successive call until the impatiently awaited Hour of the Nation's deliverance shall have been attained. The Ball of the Eighth Ward will afford a forecast of that joyous occasion.

Elijah M. Amos, Esq., Postmaster at Knoxville, Crawford Co., Ga., was killed a few days since by being thrown from his sulky and dragged nearly a mile, his feet becoming entangled in the reins. His horse was frightened and ran at the top of his speed. Mr. A. was horribly mangled and quite dead when discovered. He was a worthy and influential member of society.

MR. GREGG, the Superintendent of the City Dispatch Post, writes us that our paragraph yesterday charging gross neglect upon the carrier for the station at the corner of John and Nassau-streets, is incorrect in every particular. We give him the benefit of the contradiction, but feel bound to say that our informant assures us that the facts alleged can be substantiated if necessary. The box, he persists, was not visited after 9 A. M. and it was full of letters. We hear from other quarters, likewise, loud complaints of extreme negligence in the delivery of letters.

WE trust our readers will remember the Grand Oration at the Tabernacle to-night. The Oration of 'David' by the Chevalier Neukomm is to be performed for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans of deceased Firemen. The Music we are assured will be most admirable, and the purpose of the performance commends it to the ardent favor of all.

BY a reference to a card in our Advertising Columns it will be seen that a new and splendidly fitted Boarding House on the Graham or Vegetable system has just been opened in our City for the accommodation of Citizens and Strangers. This House has no connection with any other, nor will it compete with any; but we doubt not it will be found fully worthy of patronage. If men consulted their reason rather than their vitiated appetites in choosing Aliments, we should need many hundreds of such houses in our City instead of two or three only. We trust the number is destined steadily to increase.

Naval Court Martial on board the U. S. ship North Carolina.

The Court met at 10 o'clock and after the record had been read, Lieut. Gansvoort's cross-examination was proceeded with, but without eliciting any thing important. His examination was suspended for a time to allow of the examination of Samuel T. Holbrook, a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, to prove the name and identity of Small, and his testimony is as follows: I am a shipwright and live in Boston; I have been acquainted with Elisha H. Small, late a seaman on board the U. S. brig Somers, for several years. I am likewise acquainted with his father and mother. I have known Small from his childhood and that is his real name. He never, to my knowledge, passed by the name of Andrews. I know that the man I knew as Elisha H. Small was the one hanged on board of the Somers, because I knew the time when he joined her, also from frequent conversations with his father and mother about him, also from having seen various letters from him while on board of her, also from the fact that when the occurrences on board of the Somers were made public, it was known and talked of about the neighborhood that he was one of the men hanged. I have a letter from him in my pocket now. I know his handwriting and signature.

Cross-examined.—It is about two years since he was under my immediate observation. I became more intimately acquainted with him from the fact that he was rather wayward, and I remonstrated with him and told him that he could never expect to become an officer unless he reformed, and I promised to use my influence with his employers for him if he amended. I am sorry to say, during that two years he was a considerable time on the Coast of Africa in the employ of a Mr. Brookhouse of Salem. Afterwards he was on board the brig Angola owned at Boston by a Mr. Gardner. When he left her he joined the U. S. brig Somers. I never had any knowledge of his having assumed the name of Andrews at any period of those two years.

Lieut. Gansvoort's cross examination was then continued in the same style as before without eliciting any thing material that is not contained in his evidence before the Court of Inquiry, as published in our pamphlet.

At 3 o'clock the examination was suspended and the Court adjourned.

CHARLES L. PORTER, Esq. has resigned the office of Postmaster at Hartford, Ct. He was appointed as a Whig, and held the office as long as he could hold it without treachery or hypocrisy, when he gave it up. Honor to his integrity and spirit!

THE Philadelphia Gazette sneeringly speaks of Chief Justice Hornblower, of New Jersey, as an "amateur admirer of hanging." This is most unjust and unmanly. Widely as men may differ from Judge H. as to the policy of inflicting the punishment of Death, no one can deny him all the qualities that belong to an upright judge—stern adherence to principle, clear-sighted discrimination, and an unstained, unflinching integrity. He is an honor to the bench at which he presides, and nothing within our knowledge that he has ever said or done should subject him to the Gazette's undignified slur.

THE Methodist Episcopal Church in Duane-street was robbed on Sunday night of about sixty yards of carpeting and the cover to the communion table. The thief probably secreted himself during evening service. An attempt to seize the communion plate was made in St. John's Church some time since, but it was unsuccessful.

THE bill to restore Imprisonment for Debt in New-Jersey, under the swindling title of an act to abolish it, is likely to pass the House, but we greatly hope that it cannot pass the council. Several amendments introduced to render it less inhuman, and to conform it in part at least to the pretence held out by its title, were successively voted down in the House. Give us the Yeas and Nays!

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE and GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK for March have just been sent us by Israel Post, 83 Bowery. We have no time to judge of them, much less to speak, this morning; but Godey has good things by N. P. Willis, Mrs. Ellet, and others; and Graham's contributions from Paulding, Bryant and Burleigh are excellent. Willis's story in this is not one of his happiest. We may speak of these works again; if not, our extracts will speak for us. Each has three engravings.

THE Intelligencer remarks that the lately rejected six per cent. stock of the United States already commands a premium.

"PRINCES OF THE BLOOD."—The American's Washington correspondent has the following paragraph:

Mr. Robert Tyler made a speech before an Irish Repeal Society in this city the other night, in which, struck with the idea of the alarm which his new position would strike in the hearts of Peel and his Ministry, he justified his interference with "the peculiar institutions" of British Isles by reference to the example of Prince Albert, in presiding at the great World's Convention in London, for the abolition of Slavery! So, if the British Government complain of the conduct of Prince Robert, Mr. Everett will have an answer ready. What truly "poetical justice!" "You keep your princes in order first, and then we will ours."

MEXICO.—A letter from Monterey, in the Province of New Leon, (100 or 200 miles from the Texas frontier,) says the Mexican army of the North comprises more than 5,000 men; yet complains that the savages are making constant inroads from the North, and the Texans from the East.

U. S. CITY DISPATCH POST.—Contrary to our anticipation, (for which we have been smartly rapped by some lady correspondents,) the number of letters received by this Post on and since Valentine's day is much greater than upon any former occasion; up to last evening they continued to come in in hundreds from all parts of the city. An additional force has been added to this department, and every employee in the establishment has been put in requisition; 35 carriers and collectors have been engaged from morning till night, over every part of the city, in the delivery of 15,000 letters. Under these circumstances we feel that our fair readers will be kindly disposed to pardon any disappointments they may have experienced in not obtaining the expected love-letters at as early a period as they expected, owing to the pressure of business of this most useful establishment.

THE Formation of Character, a Lecture by H. GREELEY, is now beautifully printed and for sale at the Tribune office. Price 12 cts.

ROMANCE OF FRENCH HISTORY. Will be published THIS DAY, in an Extra Double BROTHER JONATHAN.

THE MYSTERIOUS CHEVALIER! By G. P. R. JAMES, Esq., author of "THE JAQUIERIE," "MOLLEY ERNSTEN," &c. &c. &c. This is a novel replete with startling and absorbing incident. Connected with the plot are some of those admirable romances of French history for which the writings of Mr. JAMES are so remarkable. The adventures of the "Mysterious Chevalier," and his noble protegee form one of the most entertaining novels of the Brother Jonathan series. Price 12 cts. or ten copies for one dollar. Newsmen must apply early, as we have printed only a limited edition. WILSON AND COMPANY, Publishers. (152 N. 12th St.)

BY THIS MORNING'S MAIL.

Retrenchment at Last.
Special Correspondence of the Tribune.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1843.

Mr. ARNOLD's bill, which was acted on in Committee of the whole House to-day, has created much commotion here, and there is much trembling and fear among the very large number of people in public employment here, lest it become a law. It provides that the pay of members of Congress be reduced to six dollars a day while in actual attendance, unless absent on account of sickness of themselves or families, or by leave of the House of which they are members; allows six dollars for every twenty miles, estimated by the most usual route from the member's place of residence, actually traveled, but not to exceed in any case \$300; reduces the pay of all officers, (except those in the Diplomatic service, the Commissioner of Pensions, and those whose emoluments do not exceed \$1,000 per annum, and those whose salaries are fixed by the Constitution) those of \$3,000 and upwards, 20 per cent.; those between \$3,000 and \$1,100, 12½ per cent.—provided that none except Diplomatic officers receive more than \$5,000; and reduces the pay of the Navy, &c., 20 per cent.

Some of the provisions of the bill are most salutary—that regulating mileage and prohibiting payment for journeys never performed, as has been usual, and also that providing that Members shall not receive pay while absent on business or pleasure, as is now the case. There is always an average of about thirty or forty Members of the House absent, some of them for many weeks, and often on private business. Many Members from a distance, such as Benton and others, have been in the habit of receiving mileage to the amount of \$2000 each at a session for journeys never performed.—These abuses ought to be corrected, though I do not believe in the expediency or propriety of reducing the pay of Members and others as this bill proposes.

The bill does not discriminate between officers who do and those who do not earn their pay; and it is most difficult to do so. It is very true that there are large numbers of idle and incompetent men in office, here and elsewhere, under the Federal Government, who ought not to be retained in office; or if they are not removed, their pay ought to be reduced. But there are also many talented and faithful men here, upon whom devolves the whole labor which ought to be distributed among the imbeciles above mentioned. These men receive not a dollar more than they fully earn.

The bill was taken out of Committee to-day, after being somewhat amended. I presume that it will come up to-morrow, and it is thought, will pass. I doubt whether it will get through the Senate.

Mr. Arnold's "548"—Mr. McAdams's Resolution.
Correspondence of The Tribune.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1843.

IN SENATE, to-day, the Message of the President, and the report of the Secretary of the Treasury yesterday laid before the House was received. In addition to what was mentioned in my last, the Secretary recommends the imposition of a duty on tea and coffee, and some other articles, &c.

Reports were made: by Mr. CHOATE, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, a bill for the relief of the heirs of Robert Fulton; by Mr. HUNTINGTON, from the Committee on Commerce, the House bill for the retrenchment of the New-York Custom House, with an amendment to strike out its preamble; also, an adverse report on the abolishing of Revenue Cutters, &c.

Mr. WILLIAMS presented resolutions of the Legislature of Maine for the abolition of the West Point Academy.

A resolution of Mr. WOODBURY inquiring of the Secretary of the Treasury as to the net amount of revenue from customs for January, ultimo, was adopted.

The bill to authorize the appointment of the Assistant Postmaster General by the President and Senate was passed.

Mr. BERRIEN gave notice of his intention to move the consideration of the Bankrupt Law on Monday next.

Mr. McDUFFIN's resolutions on the Tariff, and on the general policy of Government, with Mr. EVANS's substitute, again came up.

Mr. EVANS, at some length, and with his usual financial ability and clearness, supported his substitute resolutions, and replied to Mr. McDuffie, disproving his assertions in regard to the Tariff—to its unequal operation, &c., and arguing that instead of our commerce being reduced by that law, facts proved directly the reverse—that the only requisite for our prosperity was the establishment of a safe and uniform currency, redeemable in every part of the Union, and the scrupulous fulfillment of their obligations by the States, and by the General Government, assigning as a prominent cause of the present embarrassments of the country the destruction of the United States Bank and the various subsequent experiments on the currency by the Loco-Foco party during their twelve years' reign, whose financial quackery and political profligacy he exposed, &c.

He agreed with Mr. McD. as to the policy of retrenchment and reform in the various departments of Government, but took a more favorable view of the present and prospective state of the Treasury.

Mr. DAYTON offered an amendment to the resolution of Mr. Evans, to avoid an implication of any design on the part of the States to repudiate their debts.

Mr. RIVES proposed a substitute, declaring the duty of Congress plainly to make known its opinion and intended course of action upon this subject; that they have no power to assume the State debts; that it is due to the honor of the several States, not to suppose the slightest disposition on their part to repudiate, &c.

Mr. MERRICK deprecated the whole course of this discussion, and gave notice that after the remarks of Mr. DAYTON to-morrow, he would move to lay the whole subject on the table, that they might return to the regular order of business.

Mr. ALLEN disagreed with Mr. M. that the discussion was unprofitable, and demanded most vociferously that Senators consider the subject and boldly proclaim their sentiments to the people.

Mr. BUCHANAN thought they should be guided by former experience, and not in the 15 days left of the session attempt the consideration of such indefinite business.

Messrs. ARCHER and CALHOUN wished the subject fully considered. Without any definite action the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. BARNARD gave notice of a motion on Thursday to go into Committee of the Whole on the Union to take up the Exchequer bill to enable him to offer his proposed amendment.

Mr. KENNEDY moved as a test-question on the subject that the bill relative to the warehousing system be made the special order for Tuesday. The motion being objected to was not received.

On motion of Mr. Underwood, the Committee of the Whole was discharged from the consideration of the bill to renew and extend the charters of the Banks of the District of Columbia—a motion by Mr. CAVE JOHNSON to lay the subject on the table having been rejected: Yeas 87; Nays 103.

made a call for information with reference to the alleged defalcations of Mr. H. &c. Mr. GWIN took exception to certain remarks of Mr. GRANGER on Saturday, relative to Mississippi finances, and between these gentlemen and Mr. THOMPSON of Me. some explanations and further examination of the subject took place.

The special order—Mr. ARNOLD's celebrated bill "No. 548," for the reduction of the pay of Members of Congress and the officers of Government generally, came up.

A motion of Mr. ARNOLD to terminate debate in Committee at three o'clock to-day prevailed.—The House then went into Committee—about two hours remaining to the expiration of the allotted time for debate. A scene of unusual disorder and confusion followed, the remainder of the time being nearly consumed with questions of order, mock amendments—exciting much amusement—of which Mr. WISE's, allowing Senators one ration of beef per day well cooked, and Mr. ARNOLD's, to except "the Corporal's Guard" from the proposed reduction, are specimens, &c. &c.

Mr. CUSHING (the only speaker) at some length opposed the bill, on the ground of the impropriety after having enjoyed during the Congress the present compensation of reducing it for their successors, and on other considerations—

No important amendment having been adopted, except of Mr. HOLMES—by a large vote—allowing no mileage except the traveling expenses actually incurred the bill was reported the House.

Without further action the House adjourned.

ABRUS.

Storm in Baltimore—Fire in Key West—Indian Hostilities Renewed.

Correspondence of The Tribune.
BALTIMORE, Feb. 15, 1843.

We are here in the midst of snow, ice and sleet, having had all three in the last twenty-four hours. By the way of Charleston we have late advices from Key West. It will be seen by the annexed letter from Key West that the spirit of Indian hostility is not yet subdued in that quarter, and farther difficulties are apprehended with the Indians in the vicinity of Indian Key.

On the 24th inst. a fire occurred at Key West. The flames were first discovered issuing from the warehouse of F. A. Brown, which was speedily consumed with six other buildings adjoining, to which the flames had communicated; and had it not been for the great exertions of the citizens, assisted as they were by the officers and crew of the cutter Jefferson, to whom great credit is said to be due, it is supposed all the buildings on the Key would have been destroyed. Estimated value of loss of buildings and property about \$5,000.

Key West, Feb. 2, 1843—8 o'clock P. M.

I have to inform you that an expedition has been ordered for the protection of Indian Key, by a letter just received from Lieut. Harrold, of the U. S. Navy, now in command of that Key, to Capt. H. B. Nones, of the U. S. brig Jefferson, calling for his immediate assistance, which request Capt. Nones most cheerfully complies with; and no time is lost, for that officer is known to be too prompt to suffer a moment's delay where life is in danger. Lieut. Harrold has his wife on Indian Key. We may look for hot work in that quarter if the Indians make their appearance.

Things in Philadelphia.

Correspondence of The Tribune.
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15, P. M.

The funeral of the brave and lamented Commodore Isaac HULL, which was to have taken place this morning at 10 o'clock, was postponed until Friday morning next at eleven o'clock, A. M. in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, and the dangerous condition of our streets and sidewalks. There appeared something of an improper character in the speedy burying of the deceased, from the first, and I now trust to see more general arrangements made, which the greatest honors may be rendered the immortal remains of one so dear to the whole American People. But one or two of our volunteer companies had been assembled before the orders of Major General Patterson were countermanded.

But still attendance at the Board of Brokers to-day, and sales quite limited. The inclination to purchase State Fives has entirely ceased, and there appears to be no demand whatever. The following are the sales: \$2000 Kentucky Bonds, &c.; 100 shares Wilmington Railroad, &c.

We have had another severe storm, composed of hail, rain and snow. It commenced yesterday afternoon, and continued during the night. The streets and sidewalks, at an early hour this morning, were covered with a wet slippery ice, which rendered it exceedingly difficult for us to sustain himself, and many a bruised limb was the consequence. For about two hours we had a fall of snow, which has caused tolerably good sleighing, and those who can are enjoying it most heartily.

Judge Parsons appeared in Court this morning, presented his commission from Gov. Porter, received the requisite oath and took his seat on the Bench.

The Committee on Banks, in the House of Representatives of this State, have been instructed, by a vote of 40 to 36, to bring in a bill to authorize the Banks to issue small notes; and that such a bill will pass both Houses, I have not the least doubt. The vote, although a close one, may be considered as a pretty sure test in the House upon this subject.

The bill to reduce the expenses of the Canal Commissioners was before the House to-day, when the greatest confusion ensued, pending which the same adjourned.

Nothing of interest in the Senate.

The 'Spirit of the Times,' the only paper in the city, appeared this morning in full mourning, for 'one who was an honor to his country and to human nature'—Commodore ISAAC H